

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
of the  
Suffolk County Legislature  
  
Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **July 29, 2003**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson  
Legislator David Bishop  
Legislator William Lindsay  
Legislator Andrew Crecca  
Legislator George Guldi

**Members Not Present:**

Legislator Joseph Caracappa

**Also In Attendance:**

Alexandra Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter  
Meghan O'Reilly - Aide to Presiding Officer Postal  
Tim Laube - Aide to Legislator Lindsay  
Ray Zaccara - Aide to Legislator Bishop  
Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office  
Kevin Duffy - Budget Review Office  
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Review Office  
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office  
Joe Michaels - Deputy County Executive for Public Safety  
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
James Abbott - Chief Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Dept  
James Maggio - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Phil Robilotto - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Mitchel - Legal Aid Society  
Louis Mazzola - Legal Aid Society  
Carol Makrides - Civil Service Department/Information Services  
Debbie Eppel - Public Information Office  
Tom Muratore - Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association  
Katherine Hoak - Suffolk County League of Women Voters  
Elie Seidman-Smith - Director/Community Service Program/ARC  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 1:10 P.M.\*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Public Safety & Public Information Committee. And Legislator Bishop, if you would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Salutation

Thank you. We will go right to the cards. I just would like to put on the record that FRES, Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services is not represented here today, they called; Ed Jacobi, the head of SEMO, State Emergency Management Office is conducting their annual meeting here in Suffolk and they're all there today. We'll start with the cards; first, Ellie Smith.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Can I ask Leo to go before? He's the second card.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Since these are not numbered, we certainly will be happy to do that. Leo, come forward. You can just sit at the table. This is Leo Ostebo.

I would just like to put on the record, you know, we have so many wonderful residents in this County that give to the County and this gentleman for many years, I think that some of you might not be aware of it because it's been a while since he served in this capacity, but he donated many, many hours as a Trustee of the Vanderbilt Museum. So for that, we thank you, Leo. And go ahead.

LEG. CRECCA:

Leo, you're also Mr. Kings Park, for those who don't know what, too.

MR. OSTEBO:

Thank you, Andrew. I don't know what I'm doing here. All -- are you going to ask --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just speak into the mike.

MR. OSTEBO:

Are you going to ask me questions? Are you going to --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No. You're here --

MR. OSTEBO:

Use the mike.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Actually in the committees we -- during the public portion, just people who come up to address the committee and have something to share was and we're not going to question you, grill you or anything of that nature.

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MR. OSTEBO:

Okay. I'm here on behalf of Red Cross and they have a probationary program, Community Probationary Service Program, and we obtained one of their clients in the first week of July and we had the kid for 80 hours. The kid is at my house right now finishing up a one hundred year old two-horse sled that he's painting because the school hired him, he did such a good job in the 80 hours. And I was sharing with her that I had a complaint and the complaint was I got this kid and in four weeks no Red Cross person came to see me and see if this kid was doing anything. We could have been beaching it, we could have been in Japan, I could have been beating on the kid, nobody came. On Monday I would call up a mysterious person and say, "The kid is still alive, he did this, he did that."

My point is after 35 years of teaching, if you gave me a kid for my athletic team and you didn't come to see him and see him play and stroke him and say something nice about him, I was a very angry Indian. And I'm not so happy that the Red Cross didn't come and say, "Boy, you guys do great work here," because this kid turned out to be a winner. He painted it, he dug it, he lifted it, he restored, he's going to be in the paper and on the Kings Park website not once, not twice, but three times in the next three weeks. He did that much at this museum. If the Red Cross could get me two more of these; in fact, this kid the school hired for the month of August and he gave his word that he will give one afternoon a week to the museum in Kings Park. My point is I never met a Red Cross person until I met this lady just a half an hour ago, and it turns out they don't seem to have people to help them, they don't seem to have enough workers.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, Leo, I thank you for sharing that. I have a feeling, though, a lot of the success of this particular project had to do with where he was and who he was with; and I'm sure you probably poo-poo that, but I really believe that. And the issue of the personnel or not having enough is something that I'm sure Ellie is going to share with us next.

MR. OSTEBO:

I hope so, because if you just gave me your kid and went on vacation for a month and didn't call to find out anything --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right. No, you raise a good point.

MR. OSTEBO:

Okay. That means I'm going, huh?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thanks very much, Leo.

MR. OSTEBO:

Thank you all.

LEG. CRECCA:

Good to see you, Leo.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Ellie Smith. Doug, could you get those packets, please?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

I am so glad that Leo came. We do have other Leo's but they're far -- few and far between. He's a very special mentor we have and I can't say enough about how wonderful the placement was. Actually, the fellow was failing in all the other placements and it wasn't until he meet Leo that he actually pulled his act together. He was one of our people that belonged in the DSU, he wasn't going to any placement and he wasn't well supervised.

LEG. BISHOP:

What's DSU?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

This is the Direct Supervision Unit which is where we mandate the kids to call us and to see us once a week and we go out to see them at their placement. That was the unit that was cut and that's -- a couple of things.

First, before I talk about that, I do want to say a couple of thank yous. If you open your packet up, I just want to say I'm indebted to Angie for giving me Debbie Eppel, just indebted; that woman worked beautifully from the Public Information Office. That one day about nine months ago you said, "Well, speak to Debbie at the Public Information Office, she'll help you with your conference." Yes?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just stop right there, I just want to correct the record. It was very sweet of you to thank me, but that was an initiative that I did start but was supported by the Legislature in a budget process I guess a year and a half ago where we began that Public Information Office because we felt, all of us, that there were many things that the County did that really needed telling. And Debbie has been doing an enormously wonderful job in that role and we're very pleased, but it is a Legislative initiative. So go head.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Oh, thank you so much. I just -- if I can support people while I'm doing this, usually I have to beg for my supper but I just want to thank you for all the people that have helped us in the last nine months through this disastrous year of ours, and I'm not alone and I understand that. And I thank you for all your efforts.

But the first page on the left side shows what Debbie did, she did three bulletins, three news bulletins, she was on the phone, she brought us four County agencies that participated in our program. This was a national program. If you look at the second page that says, "NCSA Press Release," I of course over estimated, I wanted 500 attendees but we actually got 300 attendees. And I want to thank for the record all the Legislators that came and joined us at lunchtime, it really was a delight to see so many people participate with us.

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I also want -- and this is the culmination of the process. We had three days of a wonderful training session, a national training session that was held in Hauppauge and we got rated by the National Institute of Corrections as excellent; we came up to their standards and surpassed them in many areas. I also included the NCSA Community Sentencing Association brochure and I want to let you know that the National Community Sentencing Association was extremely pleased with the work that we did. This was the first time they came to Long Island, there were ten states and we were very well represented. Commissioner Croce did an excellent presentation, the New York State Division of Parole, Martin {Sarinsione} did a wonderful presentation. I'm passing the pictures around for you to see just quickly how well this conference was received, as well as we had -- I want to thank for the record the Probation Department, Vinny Iaria, and we had Ann Martin and John Desmond from Probation constantly giving us support and help. And I want to thank the Sheriff's Department for giving us the bagpipes to honor Sheriff, former Sheriff Finnerty who, as you can see from the pictures, is doing well, a little frail, but he's just a wonderful, wonderful person and a real mentor for all of us.

So that was the national -- it's put to rest now and it will be in

Philadelphia next year. That was my one year out of 18 that I had to host a national conference, thus you didn't see me for nine months and that's -- you know, I'm sad that I haven't been around but I'm happy to say that the program is around, it's limping and that's what I want to talk about today. And Leo couldn't have said it better, we're hurting.

We're hurting because, as you can see, in 2000, 2002 the juvenile program was hit the hardest; we had \$298,552, in 2003 we now have 191,292. That figure is significant because it's a 36% reduction and the reduction in the juvenile has meant three people who are not able to go out into the community, as Leo said, and looking at our agencies, they're not able to go and do the stuff that we were always proud of our benchmark which was public safety. And as Leo said, we don't know when we send these people out to the agencies how well they're doing anymore, we used to go once a week to visit and we also had crews. We're down to from four crews on Saturday to two crews on Saturday. Luckily we're still meeting our criteria because as of today we have 232 kids that have been referred to the program on the juvenile level. The juvenile level has not had any decrease in the amount of referrals. The good news is that the judges are still using it to the fullest amount, the bad news is that we really have had to cut corners and our crews are hurting.

On the adults, we were fortunate that we had only a 26% decrease. We still have programs and we still -- we're out every day in the community doing our clean-ups, doing our graffiti removal and everything, but we had a 26% decrease. So that now one of my crew chiefs has to stay in the office handling the telephones, which is something that I can't help. As Brian -- Brian would have liked to have been here today to talk to all of you about the projects, but he's out physically doing the work as well today so he couldn't come. So I am the lone representative at this point.

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What I'm asking is I'm asking for -- there's 57,000 loss that we suffered just in two Case Managers on the adult -- three Case Managers on the Adult and two on the Juvenile Division. I'm just asking for one position on the juvenile to get us through, any way we could do it. It comes out to, for one juvenile position will come out to 17,220 and even less because this was done from June to December, so if you prorate that 17,200 divided by six months and then times it by whenever we can get the money, even a month of getting this money would be okay, it would just be good for us to have one more body there.

As we come to the end of the year we need to have our State stats done, we need to have our County stats done. We have projects, we



have kids that need to finish up their community service. So I'm asking at this point anything that you can possibly do, if there's anybody -- you know, and at this point I'm leaving my presentation open to questions.

I did -- our June 30th quarterly shows you we have not stopped the work and we have 102 new referrals just for the three months. I don't know how much the detention facility is going to cost but I do know that the Sheriff's facility now costs \$203 a day and that's \$203 a day that would go into the jail if it wasn't for the adult program. Our money is still \$1.65 a day and we have had no, not one, public safety risk since we've been cut. The good news is we're still there, the bad news is we're hurting bad. So I appreciate anything you can do for us.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Thank you, Ellie. I know that a number of us are very supportive of the work that you do with the Community Service Program in particular. I have had some preliminary discussions with BRO and I'm just looking at the sheet that you had shared with us and a memo we had received from -- or actually an e-mail that we had received from BRO and there seems to be -- the numbers don't exactly jive. So I guess it was Kim that my office had been in touch with and perhaps you can sit with them and see if we can have the numbers more in line.

But also we're faced with another problem. From my understanding that the way we're structured here that we can only adjust the budget certain times of the year and the next window of opportunity for us would probably not get the money in your hands until November, December.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So just so that you're aware of that. Are there any questions or comments from any of the committee members? Okay, thank you. We'll see what we can do.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Thank you so much.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You're welcome. Next we have Bob Mitchel who would like to address us on the Legal Aid Society briefly.

MR. MITCHEL:

Madam Chairman, Members of the Committee, Bob Mitchel, Suffolk County Legal Aid. I won't take much of your time. I have a little handout here.

Basically it's the same plea that we've made through the years. Three years ago a raise was given to the District Attorney's Office and the County Attorney's Office. At that time, when they -- when that raise went in, that kind of crippled us. Since then, the County Exec every year has said that we should receive a raise to try to bring us into some type of line with the DA. The problem now is that the DA is paying and the County Attorney at least \$10,000 more for entry-level positions. And as an example, we have had 28% turnover this year so far. The District Attorney has hired five of our employees, he culls them out, they actively solicit them in the courtrooms; the County Attorney has taken three; insurance companies have taken several, too.

So we're having a very difficult time hiring people. We have hired several people and they don't show up or they call us and say, "I'm sorry, I want to move out of my mother's garage, I can't afford \$40,000 a year." So we're having a very difficult time hiring people on one end. On the other end, we're having some of our senior people retire out in Riverhead, the guys that are handling the felonies. Now, unless we can get people to fill those spots when they retire, I'm talking about people that have experience, we're going to be in some serious trouble here.

Now, as you all know, 18-B is coming in with some money in 2005, actually 2004. They're raising the cap on the misdemeanors from \$700 to 2,400 and the felonies I think up to about \$4,500, so it's \$75 an hour inside and outside of court and it's going to go higher than that, that cap. What we're trying to tell you is in the long run it's going to cost the County a lot more money if we can't cover these -- we never turn down any case; we cover all the cases, the east end, we cover them on weekends. If we can't cover it, the County is going to wind up paying a lot more money for 18-B. And that's basically -- Lou, you want to say anything?

MR. MAZZOLA:

The handout we gave you --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Lou, if you would just for the record identify yourself.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Louis Mazzola. Yeah, basically the problem we're having is that most of our staff right now is very inexperienced and it's difficult now to cover a lot of the parts. One of the problems we've been experiencing, for instance, is that we cover a lot of the Justice Courts over here on the west end, and since we don't pay overtime for attorneys we wind up having to give them comp time. And it's



difficult enough to get people who are experienced enough to work on

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their own in some of these outlying or, you know, the Justice Courts or the Village Courts and we're getting to the point where we're getting complaints from some of the Judges that we don't have people to send down there and they're going to have to start assigning 18-B to handle those cases.

Mr. Mitchel alluded to the problem that we have and I see it -- you know, it's a long-term problem coming down the road and that is that we don't have enough experienced people to do this kind of work. People come and they stay with us, sometimes they're willing to stay for a while and they get experience because they're in the courtroom every day and sooner or later they get spotted by someone, usually the DA or at least in many instances the DA and they're out of there. So we're becoming a training ground and we're having this constant turnover of attorneys. That's going to get hard to sustain after a while because, you know, we try to groom people, bring them along so that they can handle the more complicated cases that we see out in Riverhead in both the felony trial part and the Appeals Division. So that's our plea.

We came in with this little power point presentation that was given by the New York State Defenders Association, it kind of outlines the highlights of the 18-B legislation, the new legislation that was just passed. It explains in here what the rates have gone to. And as Mr. Mitchel said, the caps alone have more than doubled, I think the cap for a misdemeanor case was 750, it's now 2,400 and the cap for a felony case was 1,200, it's now 4,400. And even though I think -- these rates go into effect as of January 1st, 2004, but as a matter of fact -- and I think, Andrew, maybe you know, too -- the courts have been consistently awarding above this cap an hourly rate for the past year in cases where they consider the case to be extraordinary or the circumstances to be extraordinary. So the cost of the 18-B representation is going to be much more expensive for the County.

LEG. CRECCA:  
I have a question.

MR. MAZZOLA:  
The other thing this legislation does and your outline here shows is how the monies that are raised are going to be distributed to the Counties and one of the ways is they're going to take the amount of money we spend now and add it up with all the money spent across the State and come up with a percentage amount. So I hope this will be helpful. I also gave you an outline of our caseload which, you know, I don't always like to rely on numbers because numbers don't really tell

you much about how much work goes into a particular case, but they certainly are a great, great number of cases that we handle across the County and you can see the breakdown here. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

Lou, can you just tell us -- or Bob, I'm sorry, either one -- the

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breakdown you gave us on the caseload, I don't really understand how you broke it down there. Obviously I know -- what is seniors and --

MR. MAZZOLA:

Some of these are not County funded. There are -- the entire Legal Aid Society. The seniors are, we have a Senior Citizen Division that's funded through the Older Americans Act.

MR. MITCHEL:

Through the County.

MR. MAZZOLA:

It's through the County but it's not through --

LEG. CRECCA:

Pass through money?

MR. MAZZOLA:

Yeah, it's pass-through money, it comes from the --

MS. MITCHEL:

Office of the Aging.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Office of the Aging, yeah. The Law Guardians, again, is a separate budget, it's funded completely by the State. And you'll see in that handout there one of the -- those fees are also going up because they use 18-B panel attorneys and that's a separate amount, it's funded through the Office of Court Administration. Everything else on here, Family Court, and what we're showing here is a comparison between from 1998 to the end of 2002, what our caseload was in each of those divisions.

LEG. CRECCA:

What I would recommend, too, is that you -- similar to what the DA did, and I don't mean the same type, however you -- obviously your

structure is different and all, but that maybe you come up with what you would not just want dollar-wise but what your salary plan would be for -- before -- and this is the right time, you are here at the right time, before the budget process starts for next year but to really give us something that we can sink our teeth into as far as a salary plan for 2004 and beyond and what that actual cost will be for the operating budget.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Well, when you say the salary plan, what we did was we sort of looked at the DA's salary structure and tried to as much as we could draw some comparison between ours and theirs. And that's the kind of budget --

LEG. CRECCA:

In your budget request?

MR. MAZZOLA:

Yes.

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LEG. CRECCA:

We haven't seen that and --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We're like the next step.

LEG. CRECCA:

Right, we haven't seen the budget request.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Has this been done at the County Executive's hearings?

MR. MAZZOLA:

Yes. And as a matter of fact, I think Joe Muncey is here, we had given him a copy of our budget as well. What we've done in the past couple of years is tried to give you a little heads up on what we submit to the County.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And we appreciate that, Lou.

MR. MAZZOLA:

We don't know what -- you know, we don't know what the County Executive is going to do with the budget, but you at least know what our proposal is or our request is.

LEG. CRECCA:

How much is the increase that you're requesting this year?

MR. MAZZOLA:

I believe it's somewhere in the neighborhood of 18%; that sounds like a big number but, you know --

LEG. CRECCA:

What's the hard number, do you know it?

MR. MITCHEL:

About eleven?

LEG. CRECCA:

You know what, why don't you guys forward -- I would forward all 18 Legislators what your budget requests were and the amounts and all that too so that we have it in front of us. As we head into the budget process which for us sort of begins in late September --

MR. MAZZOLA:

Right.

LEG. CRECCA:

-- it would be certainly good for you to stay on top of us and keep us informed during that time period, depending on what the County Exec does with the budget and all that.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Right. Well, we thought we would try to get a little bit of a head start this year because what we tried to do in the past is to visit

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each one of you and basically explain, you know, what our budget proposal is.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But ideally we'd like to see it included in the County Executive's budget request because --

MR. MAZZOLA:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- then we're not, you know, sort of patching things up all the time. If you can make the case there, and I think this power point that you're sharing and the thing that struck me was the maintenance of effort, it seems if we're not showing that commitment then the reversements that we get are going to be jeopardized.

MR. MAZZOLA:  
Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
So that case has to be made with the County Executive.

MR. MAZZOLA:  
Well, we've done that, we've been to the County Executive. And again, you know, as far as you having a copy of what his recommendation is, it always comes out late, it comes out in September, you folks are busy, you know, because you're involved in campaigns and a lot of other things, so that's one of the reasons we thought this was a good time to at least start to make our case.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
It certainly does help to start the dialogue early and we appreciate that.

MR. MITCHEL:  
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
You're welcome. Are there any other questions? Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:  
The new State legislation, does that provide any additional resources for Legal Aid and other similar agencies?

MR. MITCHEL:  
It's across the board.

MR. MAZZOLA:  
I think basically that's going to be up to the County. I think what will happen is that based on this formula, you -- the County will receive a lump sum of money and it's for you to decide how to spend it or for the County to decide how to spend it.

LEG. BISHOP:  
So we're receiving like a block grant now that's greater than what we

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used to receive?

MR. MITCHEL:  
It will be a percentage, it will be a percentage of what you spend, that's the way we understand it. We're handled by the State Comptroller's Office and it will be a percentage of what we spend, what the County spends will be culled out of the \$30 million that they

have and they'll send it to the County; that's the way -- we're led to believe that's the way it's going to happen.

LEG. BISHOP:

And that's a positive change, we're getting more as a result of that?

MR. MITCHEL:

Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, that's what I'm trying to get at. We don't have any idea how much more.

MR. MAZZOLA:

On the other hand --

MR. MITCHEL:

We heard three and a half, 4%, but we don't know how true that is.

MR. MAZZOLA:

On the other hand, it may cost more because the cost of the 18-B, the 18-B costs are just going up. So whether or not it amounts to a dollar for dollar reimbursement for what we spend; it depends on how we spend it, I guess that's the point. I think we're more efficient in the way we spend it because we don't get paid per case and we handle basically whatever comes down the pike, you know, whatever is assigned to us.

LEG. BISHOP:

What percent -- do you have statistics on the volume?

MR. MITCHEL:

Yeah, we get about 30 -- what's the District Court? How many cases we have, about 30,000?

MR. MAZZOLA:

Are you asking how many cases that we handle, the percentage of the calendar?

LEG. BISHOP:

Exactly.

MR. MAZZOLA:

That we don't know because the court doesn't keep a record of who's on a case, you know what I mean? They don't keep those kind of records. I think it's a large percentage of the criminal cases.

MR. MITCHEL:

I would say 50 to 60%, at least 50%, possibly 60% of the calendar is



ours. I think in the District Court last year, what was it, how many cases? Just in the District Court.

LEG. BISHOP:

You don't know how many files you have?

MS. MITCHEL:

Oh, no, we know that; you're saying total. And don't forget, we got half the calendar, the DA has got the whole calendar, you got private attorneys.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

MS. MITCHEL:

So I'm saying 50 to 60%.

LEG. BISHOP:

So are your numbers going up every year in the amount of cases?

MR. MITCHEL:

Yes. Last year we got -- what was the District Court?

MR. MAZZOLA:

If you look at this outline we gave you, last year we had 19,268 cases in the District Court.

MR. MITCHEL:

That's just the District Court.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Nineteen thousand two hundred and sixty-eight.

MR. MITCHEL:

You know, we do an awful lot of parole hearings, too, that -- you know, and these guys aren't even from the County, we're doing those, I think we did 675 last year, so that means we have to have somebody or two people assigned there twice a week.

LEG. CRECCA:

And just for my colleagues, just so you're aware, too, the larger the caseload -- and if you disagree with me tell me -- but the quality of service goes down tremendously.

MR. MAZZOLA:

Absolutely.

LEG. CRECCA:

What happens is if you've got two, 300 cases and you're a Legal Aid attorney, you know, it's turnstile justice and you don't have the time to focus in on any cases and provide a proper defense. And it is problematic, I've seen it as both a DA and I saw it as a defense attorney. You know, we're having cases with Legal Aid attorneys who just had no idea what was going on with the case because they were just dealing with sheer volume.

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MR. MAZZOLA:

And that's a problem, you know, Andrew, if they have no experience they won't try cases and if they won't try cases there's no dispositions. Because as Mark Cohen always used to say, trials drive dispositions and that's how stuff gets moved through the District Court there. I mean, inexperienced attorneys don't want to try them and then once they get to learn how to do that, they're out and it's very frustrating for us. I mean, we spend time, money and effort in training people.

LEG. BISHOP:

I know that many years ago, seven or eight years ago I sponsored the adjustment in the Legal Aid salary structure, we passed that resolution but I don't think we've done one in years it seems.

MR. MITCHEL:

That's correct.

LEG. BISHOP:

We did one for the District Attorney last year or the year before.

MR. MITCHEL:

Two years ago.

LEG. BISHOP:

So the disparity now is what?

MR. MITCHEL:

A minimum of anywhere from 10 to \$12,000 entry-level.

LEG. BISHOP:

An entry-level District Attorney now makes what, 50 or 48?

MR. MITCHEL:

Fifty I would say, anywhere from 49 to 51, and we start anywhere from 39 to 40 depending on how much money we can scrape together. So the disparity is just too much.

LEG. BISHOP:

And that's where it's the most pressing is at the bottom of --

MR. MITCHEL:

Yeah.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. So that's what we need to address. Thank you.

MR. MITCHEL:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. All right, we'll move to the agenda. I received a memo from Counsel, he is not able to be at the meeting today but he did address some of the resolutions that we have as far as our voting requirements.

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### Tabled Resolutions

We'll start with 1380-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the renovation, construction and additions to the 6th Precinct (CP 3184) (County Executive). This requires a two-thirds vote, not three-quarters because of the offset.

LEG. BISHOP:

Why are we amending and not simply --

MR. DUFFY:

This has been tabled, there's been a problem with the offset. My understanding is that a new offset has not yet been submitted.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion to table, second. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).

1460-03 - Modifying Universal Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Police for State mandated reporters at Suffolk County Contract Agencies (Cooper). This had been tabled in the past because of questions regarding concerns of Parents for Megan's Law.

LEG. CRECCA:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion to table, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).

1532-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating planning funds for Jail Utilization Study/New Replacement Facility at Yaphank (CP 3008) (Postal). We're going to have to table this, there's going to be a corrected copy filed changing the amount of funds to enable them to do some renovations, sorely needed renovations at the Yaphank facility. So I will make that motion to table, second by Legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed? It is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).

### Introductory Resolutions

1573-03 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$186,000 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Suffolk County Police Department to continue the Bellport Targeted Enforcement Program with 75% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Bishop, second by --

LEG. GULDI:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator Guldi. We will not put it on the consent because it is not 100% grant funded.

LEG. GULDI:

(Inaudible).

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, so you can't.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It still is not a hundred percent, okay? So that's the rules of engagement as far as I've been told.

LEG. GULDI:

No, it's discretionary with us.

LEG. BISHOP:

No.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, no. Legislator Bishop said, and since Counsel isn't here he rules. So therefore, we have a motion and a second to approve. The motion is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).

Resolution 1574-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with acquisition of a Disaster Recovery Plan (CP 1729) (County Executive). This resolution is sponsored by the County Executive's Office and -- let me just pull this out.

LEG. CRECCA:

Budget Review, is this --

MR. DUFFY:

It's changing it from G-Money to B-Money and it requires 14 votes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And what?

MR. DUFFY:

It would require 14 votes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

Is there enough money in this account, though, to leave it as G-Money?

MR. DUFFY:

According to Jim Spero, no.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Kevin, do you want to repeat that, please?

MR. DUFFY:

The resolution is changing the funding from G-Money to B-Money, it would require 14 votes. According to Jim Spero, there's no more G-Money available.

LEG. GULDI:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, there's no G-Money, they're asking to move it to B-Money.

LEG. GULDI:

All right. No money in the B account or G?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, there's no money in the G account, that's why they're making the motion to move it to the B account. So --

MR. DUFFY:

B money is bonding it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right. So I'm going to make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Crecca.

LEG. BISHOP:

This is to take something that was supposed to be pay-as-you-go and make it a borrowing?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right.

LEG. CRECCA:

How about we discharge it without recommendation?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yeah, discharge it without recommendation because --

LEG. CRECCA:

So we can get it out of committee.

LEG. BISHOP:

-- I'm likely to oppose it on the floor but I understand that we do need a disaster recovery plan.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'll make a motion to discharge.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It certainly sounds like we do, yes. Legislator Crecca made a motion



**LEG. CRECCA:**

Motion to discharge without recommendation.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

To discharge without recommendation, second by Legislator Lindsay.  
All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is discharged without  
recommendation (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).

Is there anything else anyone would like to bring to the committee's  
attention? If not, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion to adjourn.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay, motion to adjourn. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.\*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson  
Public Safety & Public Information Committee